

When I started teaching, I had dial-up at home, and my classroom had no computer or Internet access. Years later, my upgraded classroom had one computer and one Internet drop. Now, as a district technology director, I try to maintain classrooms with at least five computers and six Internet drops, and our district is seeking ways to provide wireless Internet access for our teachers and students. A lot has changed since I began my career. Today's generation of teachers and students cannot imagine life without a computer, tablet, cell phone, or the Internet.

As Internet availability and speed increased through the years, students' access to the world grew. Their connection to other students in the world created a global community of learners. This growth of student access to new learning opportunities must continue. It must be progressive. Funding for high-speed broadband connections to every classroom in the U.S. must be progressive also.

As a classroom teacher, I tried to meet the needs of my students. As the director of technology, I am trying to meet the needs of the district's teachers and students. In this time for this generation, high-speed broadband is an educational need. For the benefit of the students and the teachers who educate them, I am asking the FCC to meet the need by raising the E-Rate funding level to \$5 billion per year.